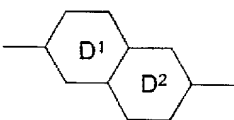
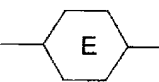


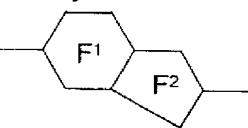
- is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of pyridine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, pyrimidine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, pyrazine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F,



- is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of naphthalene-2,6-diyl, in which one or two ring carbon atoms may be replaced by N and which can be monosubstituted or disubstituted by F or CN and in which D¹ or D² may also be a (saturated) alicycle



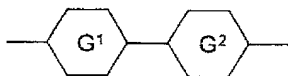
- is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of phenylene-1,4-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by CN, or unsubstituted, monosubstituted, disubstituted, trisubstituted or tetrasubstituted by F, pyridine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, pyrimidine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, cyclohexane-1,4-diyl



- is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of indane-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by F in the aromatic ring, indan-1-one-2,6-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by F in the aromatic ring, benzothiazole-2,6-diyl, benzothiazole-2,5-diyl, benzo[b]thiophene-2,5-diyl, benzo[b]thiophene-2,6-diyl

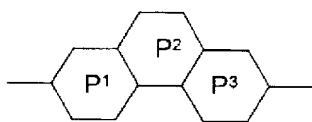


- is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of (1,3,4)-thiadiazole-2,5-diyl, (1,3)-thiazole-2,5-diyl, thiophene-2,5-diyl, (1,3,4)-oxadiazole-2,5-diyl, (1,3)-oxazole-2,5-diyl, isoxazole-2,5-diyl

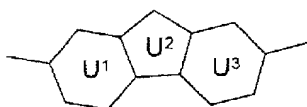


- is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of 1,1'-biphenyl-4,4'-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by CN, or unsubstituted, monosubstituted, disubstituted,

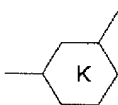
- trisubstituted or tetrasubstituted by F, 1,1'-phenylcyclohexyl-4,4'-diyl, 5,5'-pyridylpyrimidine-2,2'-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F in one or both of the heterocycles, 5,2'-pyridylpyrimidine-2,5'-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F in one or both of the heterocycles,
- 5 1,2'-phenyldioxane-4,5'-diyl, 1,2'-(2-fluorophenyl)dioxane-4,5'-diyl, 1,2'-(3-fluorophenyl)dioxane-4,5'-diyl, 1,2'-(2,3-difluorophenyl)dioxane-4,5'-diyl



- is a bivalent phenanthrene-2,7-diyl radical in which one or two ring carbon atoms may be replaced by N and which may be monosubstituted, disubstituted, trisubstituted or tetrasubstituted by F and in which P^2 and/or P^3 may be a (saturated) alicycle
- 10



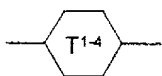
- is a bivalent fluorene-2,7-diyl radical in which the $-CH_2-$ group in U^2 may be replaced by $-C(=O)-$, $-CHF-$ or $-CF_2-$
- 15



- is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of phenylene-1,3-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by F, cyclohexane-1,3-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F or CN, pyridine-2,6-diyl, pyridine-2,4-diyl, pyridine-3,5-diyl, pyridine-4,6-diyl, pyrimidine-4,6-diyl,
- 20

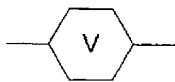


- is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of cyclohexane-1,4-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by CN, CH_3 , or disubstituted by F, cyclohex-1-ene-1,4-diyl, perfluorocyclohexane-1,4-diyl, cyclohex-2-ene-1,4-diyl, 1-alkyl-1-silacyclohexane-1,4-diyl, bicyclo[2.2.2]octane-1,4-diyl.
- 25



- is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of phenylene-1,4-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by CN or F, naphthalene-2,6-diyl, in which one or two ring carbon atoms may be replaced by N and which may be monosubstituted or disubstituted by CN or
- 30

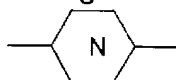
- 5 F, cyclohexane-1,4-diyl, cyclohex-1-ene-1,4-diyl, bicyclo[2.2.2]octane-1,4-diyl, (1,3)-dioxane-2,5-diyl, pyridine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, pyrimidine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, (1,3,4)-thiadiazole-2,5-diyl, indane-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by F in the aromatic ring, thiophene-2,5-diyl



- 10 is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of phenylene-1,4-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by CN or F, naphthalene-2,6-diyl, in which one or two ring carbon atoms may be replaced by N and which may be monosubstituted or disubstituted by CN or F, cyclohexane-1,4-diyl, cyclohex-1-ene-1,4-diyl, bicyclo[2.2.2]octane-1,4-diyl, (1,3)-dioxane-2,5-diyl, indane-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by F in the aromatic ring, thiophene-2,5-diyl

- 15 p, q, s are each zero or 1
r is 1 or 2.

The following meanings are preferred:

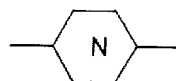


- 20 in (II), is a bivalent radical selected from the group of pyridine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, pyrimidine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F

Z^1, Z^2 are both H or both F

- 25 R^{10}, R^{11} are, independently of one another, identical or different and are each hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched alkyl or alkyloxy radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms) having 2 - 16 carbon atoms, where one or two nonterminal $-CH_2-$ groups may be replaced by $-CH=CH-$, $-OC(=O)-$, $-C(=O)O-$ and one or more H atoms may be replaced by F

- 30 with the proviso that only one of the radicals R^{10}, R^{11} can be hydrogen



- 35 in (III), is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of pyridine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, pyrimidine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F